INFORMATION LETTER

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Collier's Year Book Cites Industry's '47 Price Record

The continuing high production of canned food and the steady decline in canned food prices are described in an article on the "Canning Industry" in the 1948 edition of *Collier's Year Book*, covering the events of the year 1947, just released.

"Production of canned foods in 1947 retained the high volume that has characterized recent years, although roughly 10 percent under the record 1946 pack, in part because of unfavorable weather conditions," the article states.

"This production was achieved in response to a steadily increasing public demand for food. The measure of the canning industry's production, in relation to this increase in demand, was reflected in the fact that prices of canned foods declined from the peak levels of late 1946 to a general level that was substantially lower and approximately equal to the retail prices for these products that prevailed towards the end of government price control. *(Please turn to page 290)*

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It is requested that canners return, with changes, deletions or additions made on the pages, the imprints of the addressograph stencils showing the INFORMATION LETTER addressees of firms which receive more than one copy, which were mailed by the Association a month ago.

CANNERS AND AGRICULTURAL SPECIALISTS INVITED TO THREE-DAY MEETING ON FERTILIZER APPLICATION

Greater Production through Use of New Fertilizer Practices To Be Discussed

Canners and members of the agricultural staffs of canning companies are invited to attend the annual meetings of the American Society for Horticultural Science and the National Joint Committee on Fertilizer Application which are being held this year at Cincinnati, Ohio, on September 8-10, with headquarters at the Gibson Hotel. It is believed that the programs for these meetings contain discussions which will be of considerable value and interest to those concerned with production problems.

The program of the American Society for Horticultural Science is divided into section meetings on fruits (pomology), vegetables, plant physiology, and ornamental horticulture. A group of seven papers is being presented by scientists in these fields on "Fruit Set by Synthetic Hormones." An indication of the great interest at the present time in herbicides is shown by the programming of 16 papers on

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Building Subcommittee Interviews Architects

The Eastern Building Subcommittee of the N.C.A. Buildings Committee met in New York August 4 and 5 and interviewed architects and construction engineers with a view toward employing one to draft plans for the proposed new Administrative and Laboratory building in Washington.

Brannan Predicts Increased Use of Canned Fruit Juices

In what he termed a "factual analysis of the basic food and agricultural situation" Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan on August 4 predicted to the Senate Committee on Banking and Currency that 1948 "increases in average per capita consumption over 1947 are indicated only for a few commodities such as fish and canned fruit juices."

"These increases," the Secretary stated, "are more than offset by expected lower consumption of meat, butter, and some fruits, especially citrus fruit."

With respect to prices, Secretary Brannan testified that "retail food

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Sanitation Conference Planned for Fish Canners

A two-day sanitation conference for fish canners, to be known as the Southern California Fish Canning Industry Plant Sanitation Conference, is scheduled September 14 and 15 in the Cannery Workers Union Hall on Terminal Island, Calif.

The conference was announced this week by the Association's Western Branch Laboratories. Such a meeting was requested last April at the meeting of the Western Branch Technical Committee.

Slides and motion pictures will be utilized to supplement presentations on microbiology, waste disposal, lighting, product contamination, employee facilities, sanitary construction, water supply, cleaning, back syphonage and cross connections, plant housekeeping, inspection techniques, and the sanitation program of the N.C.A.

ABUNDANCY OF FARM CROPS TERMED CHECK ON INFLATION

Economic Report of the President Says World Food Shortage Is Inflationary

An abundant supply of farm crops, with farmers' incomes safeguarded by a system of price supports, "should be of signal aid in the checking of inflation," according to the Midyear Economic Report of the President, submitted to Congress on July 30.

"Despite our high degree of industrialization," the Report states, "the tremendous importance of agriculture cannot be overlooked. The world shortage of foods and other products of agricultural origin, continuing up to this year, has had an immense inflationary impact upon the while price structure through the relations that farm prices have to the cost of living and to industrial wages, prices, and profits.

"Although the full effects will not be felt for some time, greater abundance in basic agricultural crops should be of signal aid in the checking of inflation and the progressive working out of reasonably stable relationships," it is said.

"That end would not be promoted if the enlargement in supply of farm

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STATISTICS

1948 Sweet Corn Acreage for Canning with Comparisons

Sweet corn planted for canning in 1948 totaled 459,483 acres or slightly less than the 1947 planted acreage of 500,310 acres, according to the Association's Division of Statistics. The figures include the acreage of sweet corn planted for canning and do not include acreage planted for freezing, brining, or other forms of processing.

The following table shows the 1948 acreage of sweet corn planted for canning by States and varieties together with total 1947 and 1948 acreages:

1948 Acreage by Varieties

States	Evergreen	Narrow Grain	Country Gentleman	Crosby[1]	Yellow	1948 Total	1947 Total
	Acres	*Acres*	*Acres*	*Acres*	*Acres*	*Acres*	*Acres*
Me., Vt., & N. H.	.....	.....	.....	330	11,847	12,177	12,503
New York	.....	.....	.....	.....	19,842	19,842	19,216
Maryland	2,179	1,204	4,690	.....	23,572	31,645	38,382
Delaware	334	.....	.....	.....	2,557	2,891	4,545
Pennsylvania	757	535	1,818	.....	8,773	11,883	16,770
Ohio	3,015	2,450	1,200	.....	12,674	19,339	22,422
Indiana	7,240	30	12,361	.....	9,537	29,168	39,005
Illinois	.....	568	19,126	4,695	38,315	62,704	76,679
Wisconsin	1,287	700	730	715	103,291	106,723	108,092
Minnesota	.....	.....	245	115	81,171	81,531	84,330
Iowa & Nebraska	6,473	11,314	1,413	2,375	23,072	44,647	44,448
Other States	2,416	702	.....	.....	33,815	36,933	33,918
Total	23,701	17,503	41,583	8,230	368,466	459,483	500,310

[1] Includes other white varieties.

USDA Revises Meat Report

The Department of Agriculture this week issued a revision to its report of canned meat packed in June, which was reported in last week's issue of the INFORMATION LETTER.

The revised report amends the number of pounds of vienna sausage packed in consumer packages or shelf sizes from 5,706 thousand to 5,176 thousand and amends the total pack of consumer packages from 62,792 to 62,262 thousand pounds.

Invitations to Bid

QMC Offices—Quartermaster Corps, 111 East 16th Street, New York, N. Y.; Chicago Quartermaster Purchasing Office, 1819 West Pershing Road, Chicago 9, Ill.; Western Branch, Chicago Quartermaster Purchasing Office, Oakland Army Base, Oakland 14, Calif.

Veterans Administration—Procurement Division, Veterans Administration Building, Washington 25, D. C.

The Walsh-Healey Public Contracts Act will apply to all operations performed after the date of notice of award if the total value of a contract is $10,000 or over.

The Army has invited sealed bids to furnish the following:

CANNED SNAP BEANS—198,737 dozen No. 2 and 51,443 dozen No. 10 cans. Bids due at Chicago under serial No. QM-11-183-49-47 by Aug. 10.

OLIVES—39,058 one-quart jars plain unpitted; 43,656 one-quart jars stuffed (pimiento); and 48,480 No. 10 cans dark-ripe (unpitted). Bids due at Chicago under serial No. QM-11-183-49-61 by Aug. 10.

CANNED CHERRIES (sweet)—35,110 dozen No. 2½ cans and 21,513 dozen No. 10 cans. Bids due at Oakland under serial No. QM-04-493-49-35 by Aug. 10.

CANNED CHERRIES (red sour pitted)—271,763 dozen No. 2 and 21,217 dozen No. 10 cans. Bids due at Chicago under serial No. QM-11-183-49-41 by Aug. 11.

CANNED CHERRIES (red sour pitted)—41,094 dozen No. 2 and 3,000 dozen No. 10 cans. Bids due at Chicago under serial No. QM-11-183-49-42 by Aug. 11.

CANNED TOMATO JUICE—528,837 dozen 46-oz. and 543,245 dozen No. 2 cans. Bids due at Chicago under serial No. QM-11-183-49-55 by Aug. 12.

CANNED PEACHES (y. c. or free)—224,768 dozen No. 2½ and 63,946 dozen No. 10 cans. Bids due at Oakland under serial No. QM-04-493-49-27 by Aug. 16.

CANNED PEACHES (y. c.)—41,770 dozen No. 2½ and 45,465 dozen No. 10 cans. Bids due at Oakland under serial No. QM-04-493-49-28 by Aug. 16.

CHILI CON CARNE—418,415 pounds in 16-oz. cans. Bids due at Chicago under serial No. QM-11-183-49-57 by Aug. 17.

TOMATO CATSUP—18,248 dozen 14-oz. bottles and 7,191 dozen No. 10 cans. Bids due at Chicago under serial No. QM-11-183-49-56 by Aug. 17.

CANNED SARDINES—143,166 cases of 3¼-oz cans, packed in edible vegetable oil; and 59,690 cases of 15-oz. oval or tall cans, packed in tomato sauce or in natural oil. Bids due at Chicago under serial No. QM-11-183-49-59 by Aug. 19.

The VA has requested sealed bids to furnish the following:

SWEET PICKLE RELISH—2,904 one-gallon cans. Bids due under Invitation No. 36-S by Aug. 27.

GRAPE JELLY—1,099 dozen No. 10 cans. Bids due under Invitation No. 38-S by Sept. 15.

Army Contract Awards

The following contract awards for canned foods have been announced:

Canned Sweet Cherries

(Awarded by Oakland, Bid No. QM-04-493-49-5)

Quantity (doz.)	*Price*	*F. O. B. Point*
2,024 No. 2½ (d)	$4.35	Army Depot, Ga.
2,020 No. 2½ (d)	4.44	Army Depot, Ga.
2,375 No. 10 (d)	16.39	Lyoth, Calif.
10,000 No. 2½ (e)	4.4192	Auburn, Wash.
3,000 No. 10 (e)	15.9425	Auburn, Wash.
14,532 No. 2½ (e)	4.49	Mira Loma, Calif.

Canned Apples

(Awarded by Chicago, Bid No. QM-11-183-49-16)

Quantity (doz.)	*Price*	*F. O. B. Point*
1,457 No. 10 (e)	$8.20	*Riglerville, Pa.
2,567 No. 10 (d)	7.60	*Riglerville, Pa.

Canned Peas

(Awarded by Chicago, Bid No. QM-11-183-48-800)

Quantity (doz.)	*Price*	*F. O. B. Point*
31,344 No. 2 (d)	$1.45	*Waupun, Wis.
750 No. 10 (d)	7.50	*Gaithersburg, Md.
17,500 No. 2 (d)	1.42	*Durand, Wis.

(d) domestic; (e) export; * canner's plant.

TAXES

1947 Farm Real Estate Taxes

Farm real estate taxes per acre averaged about 15 percent higher in 1947 than in 1946, according to a report issued by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. This is the fourth consecutive year that the average for the country as a whole has risen. The index of real estate taxes per acre for the United States (1909-13 = 100) advanced from 222 in 1946 to 254 in 1947. The increase for the last year brings the series to the same point as in 1931.

PUBLICITY

Article on Tomatoes Featured

The August issue of the magazine *Seventeen* features an article by Beryl Walter, Home and Food Editor, entitled "To the Tomato!"

Covering two full pages and two half pages, this article describes seasonal uses of fresh tomatoes, and devotes considerable discussion to the nutritive content and contribution of canned tomatoes and juice to the diet. A few statistics are given, and a brief description of efficient modern canning procedures is included.

Teamed with the article "To the Tomato!" is a section entitled "Tops on the Table—Tomatoes." This section discusses the vitamin content of tomatoes and gives a number of recipes for fresh and canned tomatoes. The sub-heading of the article is "Hot or cold, fresh or canned—take tomatoes. Make the most of this versatile vegetable."

AGRICULTURE

USDA Announces Agricultural Conservation Program, 1949

The 1949 Agricultural Conservation Program, announced on August 3 by the Department of Agriculture, will provide six major groups of practices through which farmers can help to protect the nation's soil and water resources. These groups of practices will aim at (1) protecting soil from wind and water erosion; (2) restoring and maintaining soil productivity; (3) restoring and maintaining sustained yields on range and permanent pasture; (4) conserving and obtaining efficient use of water for agriculture; (5) making needed land use adjustments possible; (6) establishing, restoring and maintaining farm woodland at high levels of sustained yields.

The program is the result of the annual re-examination by the State Committees and the Agricultural Conservation Programs Branch of the Production and Marketing Administration of practices designed to keep the soil and water conservation program in line with changing conditions. It is geared to prospective food needs, and the necessity of increasing soil and water conservation, and to developments in conservation methods, according to USDA.

The program will emphasize meeting the most urgent conservation problem first. This "most urgent" problem will vary with different States, counties, and areas of the country but whatever the problem—erosion, water conservation, need for better cropping systems, or watershed protection—efforts will be sharply focused on meeting the particular problem, USDA reports. Under the program each county committee will use funds allocated to assist farmers in carrying out conservation practices where they will get the most conservation for each dollar spent.

The national outline of the 1949 program has already been sent to State PMA committees. These committees have the responsibility of developing State programs within the provisions of the national outline and adapted to the conservation needs of areas within States. County agricultural conservation committees in turn will use the State program as the basis for county programs adapted to the needs of the county and the needs of the individual farms within the county.

Assistance to farmers under the Agricultural Conservation Program is helping to put into practical use the results of study and research in soil and water conservation methods. In developing a State program, a State technical committee checks and reviews practices and practice specifications. This committee is made up of the chairman or a member of the State PMA committee, representatives of the Extension Service, Experiment Station, Soil Conservation Service, State Department of Agriculture, and other groups or agencies interested in agriculture. Membership varies with States but in the main the committee is made up of technicians and soil and crop specialists.

Congress has authorized the initiation of a $262,500,000 Agricultural Conservation Program for 1949. Assistance in the form of materials, services and financial aid is limited under the 1949 program to not to exceed $750 per person.

The Agricultural Conservation Program is in operation in every agricultural county in the United States and in Hawaii, Alaska, Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico. A total of 3,029 county committees administer the program at the county level. Around 30,000 farmer-elected community committees with 90,000 members administer the program at the community level.

CONGRESS

Congress Moves to Adjourn

Republican Congressional leaders' plans call for Congress to adjourn the Special Session not later than Tuesday, August 10. The announcement followed a Senate Republican Conference on August 4.

The House on August 5 passed in amended form the Senate resolution (S. J. Res. 157) to reestablish consumer credit controls until March 15, 1949. The House amendment also would restore the level of reserve requirements of the Federal Reserve Banks to those existing before June 12, 1945, and would increase the maximum reserve balance which may be required in the case of demand and time deposits.

Meanwhile, House and Senate Banking Committees continued hearings on anti-inflation proposals. The House followed a routine of meeting twice a week, and the Senate debated the anti-poll tax measure through Wednesday, August 4.

Following its adjournment Wednesday, the Senate again began consideration of housing legislation which remains at a stalemate through the refusal of House leaders to permit its consideration on the floor of the House.

Economic Report of the President

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products were to coincide with some serious curtailment of demand to produce a collapse of farmers' incomes. Such a collapse shortly after World War I spread to rural merchants and bankers, to manufacturers of farm equipment and consumer goods, and to other commodity markets. But the repetition of such a debacle today is precluded by a policy of farm income supports, implemented by procedures worked out and tested over the past twenty years, though not yet perfected."

The Economic Report asserts that "a second factor which should significantly work against inflation is the increase in industrial expansion." These two favorable factors on the physical side "are reinforced by numerous indications of improved economic understanding."

"In spite of the counterinflationary factors enumerated, it remains true that inflation is still very much with us," the Report states.

RAW PRODUCTS

Processed Peaches Tested for Benzene Hexachloride

Canned peaches from 17 different seedlings and five named varieties that had received the regular zinc-lead-arsenate-sulfur sprays, except that three pounds of six percent gamma isomer benzene hexachloride per 100 gallons of water was substituted in the regular spray schedule in the "shuck" and "first cover" sprays, were examined for evidence of benzene hexachloride by Prof. Lyle L. Davis of the Department of Horticulture of the Virginia Agricultural Station at Blacksburg, Va. The results of the tests were published in the *Food Packer* for July, 1948, in an article entitled "Benzene Hexachloride in Processed Peaches."

Reprints of this article may be obtained from Dr. Davis at the above address. The Association's Raw Products Bureau also has obtained a few reprints which are available upon request directed to the Bureau.

Potato Price Support Changes

The Department of Agriculture on August 3 announced a basic change in the previously outlined plans for 1948 potato price-support operations. The change was made necessary by mandatory price-support provisions of the Agricultural Act of 1948, passed late in the last session of Congress.

Under the Agricultural Act of 1948, 1948-crop potatoes must be supported at 90 percent of parity even if they are not marketed until sometime in 1949. The revised price-support program, in effect, re-establishes the basic pattern followed for the 1947 crop, when the mandatory 90 percent support provisions under the Steagall Amendment were scheduled to apply through 1948. The principal change from the plan announced last March is the continuation of 90-percent price support through the entire marketing season for 1948 crop potatoes, running into calendar year 1949.

Fertilizer Application

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this subject. A joint session is being held one morning with the American Society of Plant Physiologists at which plant growth-regulating substances will be discussed.

The program of the National Joint Committee on Fertilizer Application contains specially selected topics discussing new and improved fertilizer practices, with particular emphasis on horticultural crops. The National Joint Committee on Fertilizer Application is made up of research personnel and practical technical men representing the scientific field in agronomy, horticulture and soils, and the technical men in the fertilizer industry. The cooperative effort of this committee in improving fertilizer practices for the production of crops is sponsored by the American Society of Agronomoy, the Society of Agricultural Engineers, the American Society for Horticultural Science, the National Fertilizer Association and the National Canners Association.

Printed copies of the complete program for the meetings of the American Society for Horticultural Science will be available at the meeting September 8. The Association's Raw Products Bureau has an advance copy of this program and will be glad to furnish any details concerning it to those interested.

Collier's Year Book

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"Throughout 1947, retail prices of canned fruits and vegetables declined steadily in contrast to the sharp upward trend in general food prices. In the late fall of 1947 they were about the same as a year earlier and, by comparison with prewar levels, were considerably cheaper at retail than other foods."

Collier's Year Book also noted that "the index of prices of canned fruits and vegetables reported by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics was 155 percent of the prewar level, compared with 202 percent for all foods."

In its review of the industry for 1947, the article mentions the termination of almost all the government controls that had been imposed during the war years.

Use of Canned Fruit Juices

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prices in June were running about 10 percent above the average for 1947, and current prospects are for further increases this year. The advance in prices of food at retail is in part a result of the continued rise in consumer incomes but prices of livestock products also reflect reduced output."

Food consumption in 1949 was estimated by Secretary Brannan at "probably" about the same as in 1948. "Adequate supplies of both feed and grains are in prospect for the coming year. Some increases in fruits and vegetables are likely while some small increase in milk production is also possible."

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